

Chauncey Murch House  
846 Dayton Street  
Cincinnati  
Hamilton County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2200-K

WAVE,  
OH-10,  
24-6-10,  
37-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. OH-2200-K

CHAUNCEY MURCH HOUSE

Location: 846 Dayton St., Cincinnati,  
Hamilton County, Ohio

Within the Dayton Street Historic District, USGS  
Covington Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 16.713800.4332700, 16.713780.4332230,  
16.713250.4332410 and 16.713110.4332750

Present Owner: Henry J. Klocke

Present Occupant: Rental property with multiple tenants.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Significance: This is a relatively large, elegant house, typical of more costly later nineteenth century houses built in Cincinnati. It is one of several such houses built at about the same time in what is now designated the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area, and is important as part of the architectural context of its time and place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. The house stands on a parcel of land originally sold on October 13, 1794 to Jonathan Dayton of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, for \$42,897.00 by John Cleves Symmes, who obtained the original patent for the Miami Purchase from the United States Congress. William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States, on October 1, 1818, as an executor of the estate of Symmes, and as then Governor of the Indiana Territory, re-negotiated the sale, inasmuch as the original deed was said to have been lost. Because of the riots and fire of 1884, the records contained in the Hamilton County Court House were either partially or totally destroyed, thus making the present records an incomplete source of information. It is known from the remaining records that Chauncey Murch owned the property from February 20, 1863 to March 20, 1869 during which time it is assumed that he built the house. There are no known records of a house existing on the land previous to the earlier date. It is known that the property was purchased by Stephen Almy from Emily Avery for \$1,750.00 on December 5, 1850. Her father had originally subdivided land in the immediate area. Between 1869 and the present, there have been numerous owners, of whom Joseph Earnshaw and John Hilberg, Sr. are the most notable. Joseph Earnshaw purchased the property for \$8,345.75 on May 20, 1872. John Hilberg purchased the property for \$6,000.00 on March 20, 1901.

2. Date of erection: According to the sale prices as recorded in the Hamilton County Court House Deed Books, Chauncey Murch purchased the land on February 20, 1863 for \$5,500.00 and sold it on March 20, 1869 for \$16,291.66. Thus it is reasonable to deduce that the house was erected between those dates.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Alterations and additions: None of apparent significance.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the House:

There is no known biography of Chauncey Murch.

Joseph Earnshaw was born in England on September 16, 1831. In the Cincinnati City Directory of 1858 he is listed as a City Surveyor; by 1870 he is listed as a civil engineer. For some 45 years he was in the employ of Spring Grove Cemetery of Cincinnati. His main contribution to the development of that cemetery was to lay out the winding roads. He died on January 13, 1906.

John Hilberg, Sr. was born on October 22, 1857. He was the founder, in 1879, of John Hilberg and Sons Wholesale Meats, which is still in operation at 544 West Liberty St. in Cincinnati. He died on January 6, 1933.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None known.
2. Bibliography:

Purchase by Chauncey Murch: Deed Book 280, p.306 and  
Deed Book 595, p.60.

Purchase by Eleanor Earnshaw (wife of Joseph Earnshaw):  
Deed Book 402, p.196.

Purchase by John Hilberg: Deed Book 856, p.391.

A Centennial History of the Cemetery of Spring Grove,  
by James A Green; published by the Directors of the Cemetery, 1944.

Cincinnati City Directories, in the Cincinnati Historical Society.

Verbal history of John Hilberg given by the descendants in July of 1974.

Prepared by: Carl A. Saladino  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
August, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: One of the most fully developed Italianate facades in the Dayton Street Historic Interest Area.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This three-bay, side-hall plan house measures approximately 30'-0" by 85'-0". The building is two-and-one-half stories high.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Gray limestone facade with gray painted brick sides and rear.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry bearing walls.
5. Porches, stoops: Limestone steps and front entrance stoop. Covered side porch on the east side.
6. Chimneys: There are three chimneys in the east wall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Recessed front entrance doorway. Large door with lower wooden panel and upper glass panel.
  - b. Windows, shutters: The (south) front has double-hung windows with one-over-one-light sash on the first and second floors. The small windows in the cornice frieze are six-by-six-light casements. The remaining windows are one-over-one-light and two-over-two-light double-hung sash.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Flat, tarred, roll roofing.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Very dominant cornice with dentils supported on brackets.
  - c. Balconies: Shallow limestone balcony supported by limestone consoles above front entrance.

- C. Description of Interior: Only the hallway at the entrance was accessible, as the structure is now used as an apartment house. Noting the arrangement of the hallway and the exterior window arrangement of the structure, it would appear to be similar to the many other three-bay side-hall houses on the street.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the north side of Dayton Street near Baymiller Street, the house faces south among the group of houses long known as "Millionaires Row."
2. Outbuildings: There is a carriage house at the rear of the lot.

Prepared by: J. William Rudd  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
August, 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These data are part of the documentation made during the 1974 Cincinnati Project undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Miami Purchase Association and City of Cincinnati. Records were made of a part of the Dayton Street Historic interest Area of the City of Cincinnati.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project supervisor was J. William Rudd of the University of Cincinnati. The project historian was Carl A. Saladino of the Ohio State University. The measured drawings for the project were prepared by architects Steven B. Kells (University of Cincinnati) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), and student assistant architects William Maxwell Miller (University of Pennsylvania) and Osbourne K. Simms III (University of Illinois, Chicago Circle). The photographs were taken by HABS photographer Jack E. Boucher in July 1982.